

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Legitimate copying for personal use is one of the foundations of "fair use." However, movements are underway in other content forms to prevent personal copying from one media to another (say, digital stream to portable device). With the advances in technology, we must be able to allow an end user of the equipment with said "flag" technology to move content between compliant OR non-compliant media for the purpose of delayed viewing, or archiving of historical data - what would happen if the "broadcast" flag were left on during the coverage of 9/11?

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? As stated above, other content providers have already shown extreme disdain towards new devices which allow simple shifts of content between portable devices and non-portable devices. Movement of content between devices cannot be unreasonably restricted.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

As mostly-new equipment is needed to decode DTV streams, this statement strikes me as suspicious at the least.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

The most flexible method possible should be developed, with plenty of room for growth. See "other comments" below.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Cost should not be passed along to the consumer for a required feature which 95% of the consumers should never test.

Other Comments:

Digital Rights management is in its infancy, and should be coded with "slack," so to speak. Trying to account for every possiblity in the first iteration is not possible, but a first effort which is overly restrictive will find consumers refusing to adopt new technology.